of putting any further quantitative restrictions on the export of iron ore, pig iron and sponge iron, besides the ones already existing. At present, export of iron ore with 64% Fe and above is through MMTC Ltd., the designated State Trading Enterprise of the Government, while the export of iron ore below 64% Fe is under OGL. Government policy also allows private exporters who own iron ore mines to export high-grade iron ore directly. Till recently the export of high-grade iron ore (fines as well as lumpy ore) from Bellary-Hospet Sector was also under quantitative cap (4.2 million tonnes per annum) which has since been removed. However, quantitative cap in the Bailadila Sector of Chhattisgarh region (6.8 million tonnes per annum) continues, as the ore of Bailadila sector being of superior quality is required by the domestic industry.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Steel is contemplating a National Steel Policy, which would contain a policy on raw materials pertaining to steel, with emphasis to meet requirements of domestic consumers.

Archaeological and heritage services of India

181. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an archaeological and heritage services of India to attract professionals to the Archaeological Survey of India on the basis of the All India Civil Services;

(b) whether his Ministry has elicited any comments from the UPSC and the Department of Personnel in this regard; and

(c) if so, the comments received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, the proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The comments received from UPSC and DOPT are given in the Statement-I and Statement-ll.

Statement-I

UPSC Comments

1. Induction in the CAS through the Civil Services Examination may not be able to meet the technical and specialised requirements of the various posts in the proposed CAS.

2. Persons appearing for Civil Services do so with basically the Civil Services in mind and CAS by definition is different from other Services included in the present Civil Services Examination.

3. Recruitments are also proposed to be made partly through the Engineering Services Examination and partly from the Indian Forest Service Examination, and this would subsequently be integrated in the cadre of Archaeological Service. It may be noted that the educational qualifications for Civil Service Examination are entirely different. To integrate recruits taken from these three different examinations into a single Archaeological Service subsequently may lead to various administrative constraints.

4. The CAS is envisaged to be a small Cadre and their induction annually will be low. It is seen from the Note for Cabinet that the total staff strength of the Archaeological Survey of India (Group 'A') is stated to be 166. This in itself implies that the cadre strength of the proposed Archaeological Service would be small. As per instructions issued by DOP&T, the direct recruitment to any cadre/service in a single year cannot exceed 1 % of the cadre strength. In such a scenario, the total intake into the proposed Archaeological Service in any year is unlikely to be more than one. This hardly justifies the inclusion of Archaeological Service as a part of the Civil Services Examination or holding a separate regular Examination.

5. The best option for selecting people to the different specialised service would be through the process of Recruitment Test to be held not necessarily annually but at required intervals depending upon the vacancies which arise in different Wings. Through a Recruitment Test, it would be ensured that specific educational qualifications/experience as required for each of the specialised Wings is met with and also that only such officers are selected who are interested in joining the service.

6. The Commission has also conducted recruitment test for direct recruitment to the post of Meteorologist Grade-ll (scale of pay Rs. 8,000-13,500-JTS) in the India Meteorological Department where Recruitment Rules provide for different branches in the Service as in CAS and where recruitment is not through Examination but through Recruitment Tests/Recruitment.

7. It may perhaps be feasible to have a Central Archaeological Service (CAS). However, it is not worth to include the new Service as a part of the Civil Service Examination nor it may be necessary to hold any other examination for recruitment to the Service. However, Recruitment Tests could be conducted for the purpose.

8. The Commission sought the following information to examine the feasibility of this Service:

(a) There are five different Wings in the Archaeological Survey of India *i.e.* Archaeology, Conservation, Engineering, Epigraphy and Horticulture.

(b) Posts in Archaeology, Conservation and Epigraphy Cadres would be merged into one branch (Specific details about this are not available to UPSC as yet).

(c) There would then be three branches in the proposed service *i.e.* Archaeology, Engineering and Horticulture.

(d) Each of these three Wings would have specific duties and educational qualifications; for which additional information etc. is required.

(e) The intake into the Archaeology Wing has have proposed at the level of Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (Scale of pay Rs. 8,000-13,500 JTS). The quotas in each stream need to be indicated.

(f) These three branches would be merged at the level of Joint Director General (Scale of Rs. 16,400-20,400) (Specified details about the convergence of these three branches are also not available with the Commission as yet).

(g) The educational qualifications and experience for the given streams differ from one another. Different quotas for promotional avenues may, therefore, have to be indicated.

(h) The Recruitment Rules for this Service can only be examined after additional information and details are received from the Department of Culture.

Statement-II

Comments of Department of Personnel and Training

I.A.H.S.

1. The existing cadre-strength has been given. But the proposed cadre strength is not clear for each grade. For example, posts against NFSG, JAG and SAG have been stated to be specified later but in some cases numbers have been given in brackets.

2. The existing promotion prospects are not given, but the proposal for ideal promotion prospects in future is given. It is not known as to how the number of posts suggested for each grade, in the

absence of the dates of retirement of the incumbents can approximate to this ideal. A threshold analysis should be conducted. Otherwise, problems of stagnation would quickly arise.

3. The post are not uni-functional. Horizontal movement is prohibited, as there are many streams, a cadre should have members requiring similar skills-technical, professional and administrative.

4. Grade-wise seniority list of existing officers along with date of entry into service/grade should be given.

5. Change from the existing number of posts in each grade has to be functionally justified.

6. It is stated that modern Archaeology has branched out to many fields like tourism, epigraphy, numismatics, conservation, Museology, etc. But on the other hand, recruitment in the fileds of Chemistry (science) and epigraphy, which accounts for 42 posts out of total of 211 posts at present, has been totally stopped in the proposal. No conservation and epigraphy can be done in such a scenario. No recruitment for Museology is also proposed. Surprisingly, Horticulture stream, which had strength of only five officers (the senior-most being STS), has been proposed to be augmented to 37 with two JA Grade Officers and one SA Grade Officer. Officers with masters' Degree in Sanskrit, Parsi, Urdu, Prakrit, Arabic, Dravidian inscription were being recruited. Now no such recruitment will be made. The professional nature of such a Service may be questioned.

7. The training facilities of the Service are set for a big challenge. It is not clear whether all the trainees will be imparted the same training with similar curriculum.

8. One Officer each in the Grade of ADG, JDG, Director in Archaeological Engineering and Horticulture has been proposed. It is not good situation where only One incumbent is available for promotion.

9. Proposed stipend of Rs. 10,000/- is not a scale of pay for an Officer of a Central Service. It should also be clarified as to how the maximum intake of probationers can be 100.

10. No reserve has been proposed.

11. It has been stated that the entrants in the Engineering branch belonging to the Indian Engineering Services would get absorbed in the IAHS at the level of Director. The meaning is not clear. Does it mean that such Officers will not be the members of the Service till they become Directors?

12. The proposal speaks of surrendering 'Non-technical and unnecessary posts'. They have not give any details.

13. The exact financial implication has not been given.

14. The Recruitment Rules have to be framed in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training and Union Public Service Commission.

Visits of UNESCO team

182. SHRI K. B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNESCO team has recently visited Hampi in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the UNESCO team has assured that it would remove the Hampi site from the endangered list and to bring it back to the World Heritage list;

(c) whether the Team has suggested to the State Government to take some corrective measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would take steps to bring Hampi back to the World Heritage Site?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. A UNESCO team comprising Mr. Feng Jing, Ms. Minja Yang, Mr. Paul Trouillioud, and Mr. Hans D. Kammeier has visited the World Heritage site at Hampi during 7-11th June, 2004.

(b) to (d) The detailed report is yet to be received from World Heritage Centre, UNESCO.

(e) The Government of India and Government of Karnataka are taking necessary measures in consultation with UNESCO in this regard.